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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

8800126-1186

September 16, 1980

Dear Senator Long:

I have received your memorandum of August 22, 1980 which transmitted a copy of a letter from Mr. Bert B. Lockwood concerning the refusal of the Korean government to permit observers from non-governmental organizations to attend the trial of Mr. Kim Dae Jung.

Mr. Robert G. Rich, Director of the Office of Korean Affairs has spoken with Mr. Lockwood and other representatives of the International Commission of Jurists and has assured them of our support for their attendance at Mr. Kim's trial. We strongly and repeatedly urged the Korean Government to permit observers from such widely respected non-governmental organizations as the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, to attend Mr. Kim's trial. Unfortunately, our repeated requests and appeals were unsuccessful.

Both we and the Japanese Government have had diplomatic observers present at all sessions of the current trial in Seoul. The American diplomatic observation has been enhanced by the presence of the Deputy Assistant Legal Advisor of the Department of State who is not only observing trial sessions but meeting with defense and prosecution attorneys and family members of the defendants in order not only to symbolize our American concern for fair and equitable process but to improve our understanding of this politically significant judicial proceeding.

We continue to regret the unwillingness of the Korean Government to permit representatives of respected private international organizations also to observe the trial and we will continue to urge the Korean Government to permit such organizations normal access to Korea.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.

The Honorable
Russell Long,
United States Senate.

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